

THE PEEL STATUE FOR MANCHESTER.

When the conductor of this journal was in Manchester, a short time ago, some of the authorities did him the favour to consult him as to the best course to be pursued to obtain a statue of Sir Robert Peel worthy of the country. He ventured to recommend a limited competition of leading sculptors, with such provisions to insure an equitable decision as should satisfy the artists that their time would not be thrown away. He also urged that something more should be sought in a statue for such a purpose than a mere coat-and-trowsers portrait.

We are glad to learn that it is determined that this course shall be adopted.

According to the local *Spectator*, the committee, after much inquiry and deliberation, have selected a limited number of the most eminent sculptors to compete for the erection of the intended monument. To each of these a communication has been made by the mayor, on behalf of the committee, stating the terms on which the competition is invited. These are briefly the following:—Three thousand guineas to be given to the artist selected for the statue. The pedestal, which is to be of granite, to be erected at the expense of the committee, and under the superintendence and direction of the sculptor. Each competitor to transmit, on or before the 1st January next, a model of a statue and pedestal. The model statue to be not less than two feet, nor more than two feet six inches, in height. The characteristic costume of the present age to be maintained as far as is consistent with high art; but that any accessory which cannot detract from the importance of the figure itself shall be allowed. Each model to have a motto attached, and to be accompanied with a sealed envelope, containing the name and residence of the contributing sculptor. These are to be transmitted to such member of the committee as may hereafter be appointed for the purpose. The sum of fifty guineas is to be given to each of the unsuccessful competitors.

PROPOSED JUNCTION OF ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

The council of the Archæological Association have published a statement of the proceedings taken in consequence of the resolution passed at Manchester, and a résumé of a correspondence between Mr. Heywood, M.P., on the part of the Association, and Lord Northampton, which fully proves that they faithfully carried out the request of the meeting in take steps to effect a junction with the Institute, and that the refusal rests wholly with the latter body.

To remove erroneous opinions which seemed to be entertained with regard to the position of the Association, a letter (by Mr. Planché) was addressed to Lord Northampton, containing the following passages:—

"Your lordship does not seem to be aware that the resolution passed at Manchester, which gave rise to that advertisement, did not originate with the Association, but with gentlemen entirely unconnected with it, encouraged by the frequently expressed desire of many eminent members of the Institute itself (one of whom was actually the author of the resolution), and in the belief that a junction was earnestly desired by a large majority of that body.

With such an understanding, therefore, the members of the Association present at the congress, agreed that the motion of Mr. Crossley and the Rev. Mr. Corser should be carried unanimously, in order that no difficulty whatever should be thrown in the way of healing the unhappy differences which had so long existed between the societies, or it might more justly be said, between certain members of them.

It most surely have been obvious to every one that such a desirable consummation was only to be arrived at by the dissolution of both societies; and their re-establishment as one and the same body under the original or an entirely new title—in fact, as if no separation had ever taken place; not by the mere admission of members of the Association into the Institute, or the entire sacrifice of one body to aggrandize the other.

The Council request your lordship distinctly to understand that they forswore from the first the inferences which would be drawn from this proposition for a union, and therefore would have respectfully declined taking the initiative, had they not felt the Association was strong enough to enable

them to do so. When, therefore, your lordship hints at the probable dissolution of the Association, it appears to the council, that the consciousness of power and progress which justified them in offering an alliance has been misinterpreted as they anticipated, and considered an acknowledgment of weakness, which compelled surrender. It is in no boastful spirit, therefore, but simply with the desire to set your lordship perfectly right on that point, that the council beg me to inform your lordship that the Association was never in less danger of dissolution than at the present moment; that the increase of members during the past year has exceeded that of any former year, and includes several valuable members of the Institute; that it numbers eighty-two Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries; and, what is perhaps the strongest guarantee of its success and stability, that it has no debt it cannot discharge—a fact as honourable to its management as it is encouraging to its supporters.

Under such circumstances it would be, as far as pecuniary interests are concerned, as inexpedient for the Association to change its existing regulations as for the Institute, and nothing but the laudable desire to be the first to forget and forgive, could have induced the council to have intended for a moment to the recommendation urged upon them."

THEATRES AND SCENERY.

Theatre Royal, Haymarket.—We are often astonished by what theatrical decorators and workmen can do in a few days, although we have had some experience in it too. About twelve days ago the Haymarket was occupied by the Adelphi Company, and on Monday night it opened with smartened lobbies and staircases, renovated boxes, and a new royal box, with ante-room and approach, very cleverly and elegantly fitted up. The former box was very inconvenient, being situated on the level of the second tier, and could only be reached by ascending about sixteen steps. Her Majesty, it seems, expressed a desire to have certain alterations made for her comfort, and, indeed, would have relinquished her box if these had not been done. The royal entrance is now, as before, by the principal door in Suffolk-street. The passage is level, the walls on either side are draped with damask, and the light proceeds from two cut-glass chandeliers: at the extremity is a door of looking-glass, reflecting the perspective of the entrance. This affords admission to an ante-room, 24 feet by 11 feet, to which it has been sought to give a larger appearance, by rounding off all the corners and coring the ceiling, so that the eye is carried onward without any angle to arrest it. The decorations consist of light Pompeian pilasters, forming panels all around, supporting and enlaced by wreaths of flowers and foliage, which trail over mirrors placed to reflect the decorations, and wander up into the ceiling, which is pale blue, clouded, and in which birds are depicted. Each panel contains a view of some scene familiar to her Majesty—Windsor Castle, Osborne House, Balmoral, the residence of Prince Albert when in Germany;—and a fine masterpiece of white marble, neatly carved by Mr. Thomas, and Johnson's quaint-looking stove, with green and gold furniture, complete a very pretty room. The ceiling of the box has an oval wreath of flowers occupying the centre. The decorations have been executed by Mr. Sang and his assistants, under the direction of Mr. C. Mosby.

Royal Lyceum Theatre.—A new bustling piece, called *Save Him Right*, with which this theatre opened on the 15th inst., introduces a built-up scene of great merit: it presents a suburban villa, with its projecting verandah, the garden walls and a green-house; and, like the acting in the piece, is singularly complete and effective. In another new piece here, called *My Heart's Idol* (equally successful), the garden scene in the first act is worth notice: the gravelled walks, turfed borders, balustraded terrace, amount almost to deception. The second act opens with an effective *Ostade's tableaux*, which was not sufficiently appreciated by the house.

Her Majesty's Theatre.—We have already mentioned the structural alterations made here for the promenade concerts. The house has been draped with pink calico covered with figured white net, if such a word as draped can be applied to the ugly scalloped which edge the various tiers of boxes, as flat and stiff as if cut out of board; with equally stiff round bows of green ribbon and tinsel at the junctions: the whole unworthy of a four-post bed. Its only

merit is the preservation of an air of great lightness throughout the house. The stage covering and inclosure, white and cherry colour, is, like the musical arrangements, a mere reflection of those at Drury Lane. The insignia of her Majesty, Prince Albert, and the Prince of Wales, form singularly ugly spots.

NEW LAW AS TO DRAINAGE OF HOUSES IN METROPOLIS.

The Metropolitan Sewers Commission held a special General Court on Tuesday last, at which it was resolved, after some discussion, to accept and present for confirmation to a Court of ten commissioners, on 6th December next, a set of bye-laws regulating the drainage of houses to be built or rebuilt, or already built but not yet occupied. The propositions were moved by Mr. E. Lawes. One was to render it compulsory on the public to send to the office of the commission plans of the drainage of any house about to be built, in course of construction, or not already occupied. The Court was empowered to enforce a penalty of 5l. and 4s. per diem in case of default. The second proposition was to compel the district surveyor, under the Buildings Act, to send to the Court weekly returns of the notices received by him under the Buildings Act, and these returns the commissioners had power to enforce under the 47th section of the Metropolitan Sewers Act, 11th and 12th Vict. c. 112. These two propositions, taken together, would be the means of furnishing the commission with such information as would be requisite to enable them to enforce their improved regulations respecting house drainage. In conjunction with this course, it was proposed that the surveyor of the commission should address the owners and occupiers of property who failed to send in these returns as required, requiring them to send such returns, and informing them of the penalties to which they exposed themselves under the Act of the commission as well as under the Nuisances Act. Fourteen days' notice, according to the first bye-law, must be given previous to the construction of houses to be built, and one month's notice in respect to the drainage of houses at present in course of construction or completed after confirmation of the bye-law but not already inhabited. At the same meeting a report by Mr. Forster, on the drainage of Holloway, &c., was read, and the construction of various sewers ordered. In respect to the drainage of private property, Mr. Peto said that the drainage of Church-street and Carrier-street, St. Giles's, was in course of execution. The cost of these works was levied on the property itself, and he wished the fact to become generally known that the commission was determined, that having once decided on the general system of the arterial drainage of London, they would turn their attention, as even now it was their duty to do, to those districts where private property was inefficiently drained; and in cases where drainage was not properly carried out they would, in default of the execution of the necessary works by the owners, drain them, and the whole cost would be levied upon such property. This was a fact which could not be sufficiently promulgated amongst persons owning house property.

BOOKS.

Remarks on the Architecture of Llandaff Cathedral, with an Essay towards a History of the Fabric. By E. A. Freeman, M.A. London: Pickering. Tenhy: Mason. 1850.

Some remarks on Llandaff Cathedral, made by Mr. Freeman at a meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Association, have grown into a small volume, nicely printed and illustrated, which, besides containing a historical and descriptive account of that singular structure, will serve to call attention to the disgraceful state into which it has fallen, and the efforts now being made to restore it. The building consists of a long unbroken body, comprising, under an uninterrupted roof, nave, choir, and presbytery, with a Lady Chapel at the east end, of lower elevation. Low towers terminate the aisle at the west end. As Mr. Freeman observes—

"All this is widely different from the ordinary design of an English cathedral. The first and most marked peculiarity is the absence, in a church of so